DISTURBANCES IN IRELAND.

Addresses from the Grand Jury of the County and City of Cork.

—1.—

COPY OF THE ADDRESS

Of the Grand Jury of the County of Cork, assembled at Spring Assizes 1823.

To His Excellency Richard Marquis Wellesley,
Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland.

May it please Your Excellency,

WE the Grand Jury of the County of Cork, assembled at Spring Assizes 1823, feel it to be a duty incumbent upon us, to lay before Your Excellency the frightfully disturbed state of a part of our County; together with the expression of our conviction, that the spirit of Insurrection is rapidly extending.

Though a great majority of the offences which have come to our knowledge at the present Assizes, have occurred in one Barony, yet we are sorry to affirm that in others, Crime has much increased, and is daily increasing.

There have come before us nearly one hundred petitions for compensation for damage sustained by fire, destruction of cattle by stabbing and houghing, breaking machinery, &c.; and after the most patient and attentive investigation we were capable of giving these claims, not more than four or five appeared to us, cases unfit for remuneration from the County.

To enter into detail of the sufferings of the unfortunate Individuals who have come before us, would tresspass too much upon the time of Your Excellency; it is sufficient to say, that many have been turned out of their dwellings to behold them in a few moments in ashes, and themselves have been left without clothing sufficient to cover them.

The system of intimidation has been carried to such a length, that many have been compelled to desert their lands; all who have given evidence against the Insurgents, have done so at the risque of their lives; and even some of those who have come forward to give testimony respecting property destroyed, have had their houses burned immediately on their return to their homes.

We do not feel ourselves competent to propose a remedy: But in such a state of society as we have described, where all ordinary Authorities are disregarded, and the law of the land is set totally at defiance, we feel ourselves justified in expressing to your Excellency, our opinion, that to meet the present emergency, scarcely any measure which may be calculated upon as effectual, can be too decisive.

Jos. Deane Freeman—Foreman

Beerhaven,
R. King,
A. Annesley,
Wm. J. Bernard,
A. Warren,
Wills G. Crofts,
W. H. M. Hodder,
Robert Hedges Eyre,
John Smith Barry,
R. U. Fitzgerald,
Justin Mc Carthy,
C. D. O. Jephson,
Adam Newman,
H. G. Barry,
Savage French,
J. W. Hoare,
Jemmett Browne,
Wm. Henry Herrick,
Michael Creagh,
W. Cappinger,
John Newenham,
W. S. Curry.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

— 2. —

COPY ADDRESS

From the Grand Jury of the City and County of Cork, to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant; dated Grand Jury Room, 5 April 1823.

To the Most Noble Richard Marquess Wellesley,
Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland.

May it please Your Excellency.

WE the Grand Jury of the County of the City of Cork, assembled at Spring Assizes 1823, feel ourselves imperatively called upon to address Your Excellency on the present state of the Liberties of this City, a district comprehending an extent of four miles round it in every direction, and containing consequently a very considerable population. We lament to state to Your Excellency, that the same system of disturbance which is at present desolating a large portion of the County of Cork, now exists to an alarming extent in the neighbourhood of this City. Several Petitions for compensation from persons whose properties have been destroyed by nightly incendiaries, have come before us in our official capacity, and it has clearly appeared to us, that they are founded on fact; outrages of this nature have been committed by large bodies of these depredators, within very short distances of this City; and notwithstanding every exertion which has been made for their discovery and apprehension, they have hitherto escaped with impunity; from the impossibility of obtaining information, from the secrecy and combination among those concerned, and the influence of terror on those who might otherwise be willing to give information. We are further enabled to state, that notices have been served on the occupiers of land, requiring them to quit, under a penalty of forfeiture of life, and destruction of property, thus assuming a control over landlord and tenant, which has in many instances, been but too successful; and the effect of which has been most injurious.

We have reason also to think that unlawful oaths are frequently administered throughout the Liberties of Cork. Convinced as we are of the existence of a system of turbulence and destruction which in our opinion is increasing daily, and if not checked and extinguished will still more widely diffuse itself: We feel it our duty as a body necessarily possessing local information, to submit it most respectfully to Your Excellency.

City Grand Jury Room, April 5th, 1823.

(Signed by)

N. C. Colthurst,
C. H. Hutchinson,
J. G. Newcom,
Richard Lane,
Henry Bagwell, junior,
Robert Lowe, c.s.
Thomas Herrick,
D. Callaghan,
Jos. Cummins,
Robert Carr,
W. Harnett,
Simeon Hardy,
Isaac Morgan,
Robert Leycester,
W. P. White,
J. Galway,
Thomas Colthurst,
W. W. Baker,
W. R. Saunders,
Wm. Crawford,
Charles Evanson,
Michael Roberts,
C. H. Leslie.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

615

—3.—

COPY OF THE ADDRESS

Of the MAGISTRATES of the County of Cork; dated 7th April 1823.

To His Excellency Richard Marquess Wellesley,

Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland.

May it please Your Excellency,

WE the Magistrates of the County Cork assembled at Cork to carry into effect the provisions of the new Constabulary Act, feel it our duty to lay before Your Excellency, for the information of His Majesty's Government, the disturbed state of part of this County, together with the expression of our conviction that the spirit of Insurrection is rapidly extending into parts of the County hitherto undisturbed.

We understand that our County Grand Jury, after the minutest investigation, have presented a sum of about ten thousand pounds for damage sustained by Fire, destruction of Cattle, breaking Machinery, &c.; and though the greater part of those outrages have been hitherto confined to a comparatively small portion of the County, yet we regret to say there have been instances of Crime connected with the system in various other Districts.

It cannot be necessary to impress on Your Excellency the extent of suffering which has been inflicted by the persevering atrocity with which the Insurgents have perpetrated their work of destruction; many are now dependent altogether on the Presentments which have been passed for their Compensation, for all they can be deemed to possess; nor can we feel that property of any description is exempt from the influence of that spirit which unhappily prevails, and is directed against all property whatever.

By Notices posted and personally served, many have been obliged to abandon their farms; Witnesses who have prosecuted have done so, at personal risk; persons giving evidence at the present Assizes as to the value of property destroyed, have had their houses burned immediately on their return home; money has been extorted from several by personal threats to support and carry on their plans; arms still continue to be plundered, and pikes forged, to arm the disaffected.

We regret to state that our exertions, aided by the vigorous co-operation of the military police and armed associations, have hitherto been insufficient to counteract the designs of men who have set all the constituted authorities, and the laws of the land, at defiance. We therefore feel ourselves imperiously called upon to state to Your Excellency, that whatever further measures may be adopted, they cannot be too promptly or vigorously carried into effect.

Cork, April 7th, 1823.

Signed by desire of 100 Magistrates this day assembled.

(signed) *Doneraile*, Chairman.

True Copies.

W. GREGORY.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

DISTURBANCES IN IRELAND.

Addresses from the Grand Jury of the County and City of Cork.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
29 *April* 1823.

302.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit